# GRADUATES' CLASS REUNIONS.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT WORCESTER, MASS.

PAMPHLET F.

Approved by

The State Board of Publication.

IN THE RECEPTION ROOM.

"SUPPER IS SERVED."

AT THE SUPPER TABLE.

# STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## Pamphlet F.

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A prominent feature of the State Normal School at Worcester is the frequency and regularity of the class gatherings that are held, and the special provision made by the school for their accommodation. The graduates maintain an active Graduates' Association, embracing practically all (now somewhat more than one thousand) who hold the diploma of the school, and their annual meeting in June never fails to bring together large numbers.

But this, though an occasion of great and unflagging interest, does not furnish sufficient opportunity for the social intercourse of classmates, or the expression of class spirit. So it has come about that a series of class-reunions goes on throughout the entire year, making a distinctive feature of graduate life, and at the same time quickening the current of the school.

A suite of rooms in the main school building, consisting of a large reception-room, with dining-room and kitchen adjoining, has been set apart for this purpose, and the graduates have fitted up and furnished them to serve as club rooms for the Association. They are never used except by the graduates, who are urged to feel entirely at home in them. Each class as it comes to the tenth anniversary of its graduation celebrates the occasion by a gift to these rooms, which in this way have been attractively furnished. The latest addition, a piano, was so costly a gift that several classes united in paying for it. Thus each graduate feels a personal and vital

interest in the rooms she has helped to furnish and beautify.

By previous arrangement of dates, every Saturday afternoon throughout the school year sees a gathering of graduates in these rooms, composed sometimes of a single class, more often of two or more classes, the members of which were pupils in the school at the same time. Saturday is a holiday with those who are teaching in the public schools, but is a regular school day with us; so the reunion includes a visit to *alma mater*, with the opportunity to exchange greetings with the Faculty, and to see the school. A constant feature of these occasions, and one which never lacks appreciation, is a supper prepared by a committee from the class appointed for that purpose at the preceding reunion. While this repast or some part of it may be ordered from a caterer, it is often prepared largely in the graduates' kitchen, and is always served in their own dining-room, which has a complete service of china, silverware and napery (see "wing-frame" 15). Then follows an evening of social intercourse, which, in the case of the younger classes, often ends with dancing in the gymnasium. In this pleasant way the graduates keep in touch with the school, which they come to regard as a second home, feeling that a warm welcome always awaits them here; while at the same time their visits furnish the undergraduates with a constant object-lesson in friendly attachment to each other and loyalty to the school.

The photographs, which form a part of our exhibit suggest, as well as photographs can, the social character of these gatherings and the attractive surroundings in which they are held. When it is remembered that *every week of the school year* sees such a reunion, the enlivening influence of this feature of the school will be apparent.